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The Connecticut Libertarian

The Official Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Connecticut

July 2002

Gengarely To Take The Fifth

Long-time dedicated Libertarian Walter Gengarely has announced for Congressman in Connecticut's Fifth District. This race is a special opportunity for Libertarians to have an impact.

According to the Wall Street Journal, June 4th, 2002, the Fifth District race is a "civics exercise of huge importance". What is unique is that redistricting has pitted two incumbents, Reps. Nancy Johnson and Jim Maloney, against one another in a very even split. Third party candidates move to the forefront of close races like this.

Both candidates are proponents of very, very big government. They are currently stumbling over one another to promise every special interest group that all of their demands will be met.

The Wall Street Journal stated that "[no race this fall] is more critical than the Johnson-Maloney battle". National press coverage is guaranteed, and is already occurring.

Mr. Gengarely states in his press release, announcing his candidacy, that "educational choice, national security, threats to civil liberties, deregulated health care, campaign finance reform

and meaningful tax reform" are his issues. "It is important", he states, "that voters hear the Libertarian ideas for solving the issues..."

Walter is a licensed commercially rated pilot and flight instructor, a retired advertising representative, and a US Army Artillery veteran. The father of two grown sons, he was the 1982 Libertarian Party of Connecticut candidate for Governor.

This is a unique opportunity for the Libertarian Party. It is important to Libertarians everywhere to see the "L" up on the TV screen every time National TV coverage shows the results of this race on November 5th.

Mr. Gengarely intends to give voters a real choice on November 5th. In doing so, he will keep the other two major parties from taking voters for granted. He is currently petitioning for inclusion on the ballot in the Fifth District, which includes Litchfield County and parts of Waterbury and other towns on the edge of the County. Petitioning assistance is needed and welcomed; volunteers may contact Jerry Rivard at 203-387-4312.

2002 State Convention

of the
**Libertarian Party
of Connecticut**
to be held on
SEPTEMBER 7th
at the **OLD STATE HOUSE**
in **HARTFORD**

- Business meeting to form new State Central Committee
- Review of Proposed By-Laws changes (will be published in advance)
- Dinner
- Guest Speakers
- Speeches from Candidates
- Good fellowship and great conversation for all

Please set aside Saturday, September 7th, for the Libertarian Party of Connecticut State Convention. Details will be provided in the next newsletter and on the LP Activist list. The early registration fee is \$35.00 per person through August 7th, \$50.00 thereafter. You can send payment to the Libertarian Party of Connecticut, P.O. Box 551, East Granby, CT 06026. Do it today, while you're thinking about it.

Libertarian Party of Connecticut Picnic



Apparently, Connecticut libertarians really enjoy being outdoors, maybe even more than the Green Party! The Libertarian Party of Connecticut held its third outdoor event in as many months. Following on the heels of two successful outreach appearances in local parades, the Libertarian Party of Connecticut held a delightful picnic on June 9th in Newington, conceived and hosted by our own Dawn Berry. Dawn arranged for a covered picnic area with grilling pit, superbly managed by gubernatorial candidate, Joe Knott. The several dozen libertarians on hand enjoyed a wide variety of great food. The pot-luck assortment was coordinated by Dawn and the burgers and dogs were cooked to perfection by Joe.

Conversations and political discussions kept the adults off the softball field, but the kids made good use of the great playground and beautiful walking paths of Churchill Park. The Libertarian Party of Connecticut also took advantage of the Martin Family Reunion being held in the park at the same time. About a dozen petition signatures were gathered for the Libertarian Party of Connecticut state-wide slate, not a great per person average but not bad for what was supposed to be a

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Chairman's Corner

By Leonard Rasch

Ballot Access in 2002 and Beyond

We have a lot of exciting things happening in the Libertarian Party of Connecticut. We are booked into a couple of State fairs, we have a candidate for the Fifth District, which is getting national attention, and we have a full slate of state candidates. We also have around ten people running for State Rep, although we could use many more. And this year's State Convention is planned for the Old State House in Hartford on September 7th.

For the next few weeks, however, ballot access petitioning is our focus. At the statewide level, we need to petition for three of the six offices, including Governor. To be on the ballot this fall, we need 7,500 verified signatures on ballot access petitions, which translates to 11-12,000 "raw" signatures.

We need your help. "Crunch" time has arrived. If it is important to you to be able to vote for Libertarian candidates, then they have to be placed on the ballot. Doing so this year means that we must get enough signatures.

In the upcoming election we expect to have done enough outreach and, with some fundraising, enough advertising to pull all six offices through the one percent hurdle. Once we do that, we will not have to petition in 2006.

This means a lot to us. If we settle our gubernatorial slate early in 2006, we can begin raising funds for a high-impact campaign, with solid results for the LP. We will not have to expend time and money on petitioning, just to get on the ballot.

But before we can reach that goal, we have to get on the ballot THIS YEAR. August 7th is the deadline for petitions to be turned in. There's very little time left.

As I've said before, there is no large staff of people who will somehow get everything done. We who are active volunteers and contributors are just ordinary folks like yourself, who have decided that now is the time to grow the Libertarian Party. Your petitioning efforts and donations to the ballot access/ campaign fund-raiser are absolutely vital. Only you can place Libertarian candidates on the ballot this fall.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of LP activities.

Urgent! Time is Running Out!

We Need You to Help Get our Candidates on the Ballot!

- Here's our **Super Easy** Instructions:
- Pick up the phone and call your local grocery store (or other high traffic business or public area).
- Ask to speak with the store manager.
- Ask the manager if they would allow you to come on their premises and gather names on a petition so that you can help a candidate get on the ballot and run for office.
- Inform him/her that this is non-profit and you are not selling anything
- Set a date
- Call a friend, or call the LPCT at 866-296-2888 to find someone to join you!
- Have fun meeting new people and helping them learn that Government/taxes will be much smaller with their help!

This Formula Works! I've done it. After I scheduled the time, many of our dedicated energetic party members were happy to come and join the fun. Most people were happy to see us and pleased to know there is competition for the 'other' guys. At our first petitioning event at IGA in Terryville, roughly 85 to 90% of the grocery store patrons were happy to sign our petitions. In just a couple of hours, we received 60 to 70 signatures, with only 3 people!

Just think, if just a dozen or so people commit to heading this up a few times a week, this totals only 4 hours of your time. Most important we will get about **800 signatures in only 1 week**. Therefore, I believe with no problem at all, we should be able to double this number with two dozen people! We have several hundred members; so, this really should be just a drop in the bucket for us.

This will save the party **\$1000's of dollars**, dollars that are better invested in the Libertarian campaign this fall! We only have a few weeks left. The budget is tight and professional petitioners are *very* expensive. We need for you to call and offer to help now! Thanks for your support - Linda Rasch

Picnic *Continued from page 1*

day off! Petitioners were generally well received by members of the Martin family that were approached, though many were from out of state.

Numerous Libertarian Party of Connecticut candidates made it to the picnic including Tony Stelik, Walter Gengirali, Richard Lion and Abe Arias

who brought his family along. The topic of public appearances for Joe Knott and other candidates came up and the Libertarian Party of Connecticut is looking for suggestions for events and/or groups for candidates to talk to. Please send any ideas to me at KJG4SAL@AOL.COM. - Ken Gordon

NOTICES

- There will be no formal Campaign Strategy meeting in July, due to the two fairs at which we will have LP booths. These fairs are the North Stonington Agricultural Fair on July 11 - 14 and, on July 26 - 28, the CT Agricultural Fair in Goshen. Please contact the vice-chair through www.lpct.org to schedule time to help man these booths. Fairs are contractual commitments and we must man the booth throughout the fair period. It is fun and very beneficial to the LP.
- If you haven't already done so, join the Libertarian Party of Connecticut Activist List at www.lpct.org. Stay on top of all statewide LP activities. Go to the website today and sign up. Also check this site for a list of our candidates and our delegates to the National Libertarian Party Convention.
- We are looking for paid petitioners (non-members). It's a great opportunity for some summer money for a college student (must be 18, registered voter). Please contact Jerry Rivard at 203-387-4312.
- The monthly LPCT State Central Committee meeting will be held at the Town Hall in Wethersfield on July 16th at 7 p.m. The meeting is open to members and to the public. The Agenda is: Officer and Director Reports • Petitioning Status / Actions • Fair Review / Planning • Convention Report • Candidate Recruitment • By-Laws - Proposed Changes • Campaign Marketing and Advertising • Executive Director